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**CITY COUNCIL PASSES POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ORDINANCE TO
CONTINUE ROAD TO REFORM**

City Council today passed an ordinance that achieves Mayor Rahm Emanuel's goal of establishing two new critical functions to strengthen police accountability and transparency. The Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) will be replaced with the new investigative agency called Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), and a new Public Safety Deputy in the Inspector General's Office will audit the entire police accountability system.

"This ordinance is an important next step in our efforts to rebuild and restore the police accountability system on behalf of all Chicagoans, and I am proud of the hard work and the community process that went into crafting such a critical piece of legislation," said Mayor Emanuel. "After an unprecedented number of public hearings and conversations with residents, neighborhood organizations, and others, we are taking action that reflects the voices and interests of the community, while offering police officers the certainty they deserve."

Given the critical importance of these functions, and the urgency of the issue, it was imperative that the City pass the two measures included in the ordinance expeditiously so that investigations of police misconduct continue and that COPA has the resources and guidance it needs to operate.

The final, revised ordinance reflects the majority of the recommendations of the Police Accountability Task Force, and also incorporates many facets of the proposals put forth by Alderman Leslie Hairston and Alderman Jason Ervin. After months of public hearings and discussions with Council members, and with the input and feedback of residents across the city, the ordinance will ensure that the system is timely, fair and transparent for everyone. As part of the ongoing feedback process around the ordinance, the final ordinance includes funding floors for both COPA and the new Public Safety Deputy IG, and the ability of the COPA Chief Administrator to retain independent counsel if it is deemed necessary to do so.

Civilian Office of Police Accountability

Under the new ordinance, COPA will have more authority to investigate serious, individual incidents of police misconduct and will make recommendations for discipline and for changes to the Police Department's practices and policies. In addition to use of force and officer involved shooting incidents, COPA will also investigate improper search and seizure, denial of access to counsel and other constitutional violations. Additionally, COPA will be empowered to complete administrative investigations while a criminal case is pending.

Key updates since initial draft circulated on August 31:

- COPA will be guaranteed a minimum funding level equal to 1 percent of the Chicago Police Department's non-grant budget
- COPA will have the power to retain outside counsel from a pool of approved law firms
- Language regarding mediation has been clarified to affirm that participation in mediation is voluntary

In order to ensure a smooth transition while cases are pending, Sharon Fairley will continue in her role as the head of civilian oversight of police. Going forward, the City Council will adopt a selection process for the new agency.

Public Safety Deputy Inspector General

The Public Safety Deputy Inspector General will monitor the entire police discipline system, including CPD, COPA and the Police Board, to detect potential patterns of abuse and ensure transparency and fairness across the system.

Key updates since initial draft circulated on August 31:

- The budget for the office of the Inspector General will be increased from 0.1 percent to 0.14 percent of the corporate budget, to accommodate the work of the office of the Public Safety Deputy.

Community Oversight Board

The third prong of the reform efforts, the Community Safety Oversight Board, will be introduced after a comprehensive public engagement process takes place. The Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability is undertaking a comprehensive community engagement effort around police accountability and reform, including a process to solicit input into the design and structure of the oversight board. At several recent public hearings, the Mayor and City officials heard from community members about the need for a greater degree of community input into the creation of the Oversight Board. As part of the City's commitment to preserve the integrity of the process, the City has agreed for these neighborhood-based organizations to lead a series of meetings throughout the city focused on the Oversight Board prior to the introduction of an ordinance on this issue. Following this engagement process, and using public feedback gathered during it, the City will craft an ordinance that lays out the structure of the Board.

The newly adopted ordinance adheres to the time frame laid out by the Police Accountability Task Force to adopt many of these important reforms within six months of their introduction.

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